the Village Voice

Issue No 9, Volume 25 Lanchester, September 2025







Memories of late summer





Top left: Ripe apples at the orchard (See page 7)
Top: Beautiful wild flowers (including poppies) at the Burnhope picnic area where VJ celebration was held. (Page 13)
Above: Boys' Brigade camp (See page 13)
Middle left: Gino guarding the tennis trophy (See back page)
Left: Summer Special (See page 17)

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'I've always loved trains - now I'm qualified to drive one'

For as long as he can remember, Logan Smallwood has never been far from a train.

Inside his bedroom sits a huge collection of models, some tucked safely away in boxes, others sitting out proudly for all to see. But the 18-year-old's love for all things locomotive travels far further than his Lanchester home - according to his instructor he is one of the youngest-known qualified train drivers in the UK. It is a step which brings him closer to his dream of working on mainline trains across the UK.

"I've always loved trains, I have just loved anything that can move, any kind of machinery, transportation, I have always been fascinated by it," he said.

Logan, who graduated from Newcastle College Rail Academy with a distinction in his Level 3 Extended Diploma in Engineering Technologies, recently completed his first operational solo shift on the heritage line, Weardale Railway, where he volunteers. Powering a Sentinel shunter, which has a top speed of 17mph and is typically used to manoeuvre railway vehicles in goods yards, he said the experience "feels like where I belong".

"Driving through the wonderful countryside down in Weardale is lovely," he said. "I really enjoy it, but I don't focus on what I feel like, I'm just absolutely loving driving it, loving the scenery."

"I've always said when I grow up, I want to be a train driver, but there's a lot of different safety aspects in becoming a one. "Weardale Railway put me through all my assessments and apparently I picked everything up, no bother."

In the UK, the minimum age to drive a train has been lowered from 20 to 18, to tackle driver shortages. Logan has ambitions to become a mainland train driver and says his family are "proud" of his achievements so far.

"My mum is really proud of me. When she found out that I got my shunter certificate she was almost in tears and my family say I am getting closer to my dream," he added.

Wayne Dixon, technical rail advisor at Weardale Railway and Logan's instructor, said he was confident the teenager is one of the youngest train drivers in the UK.

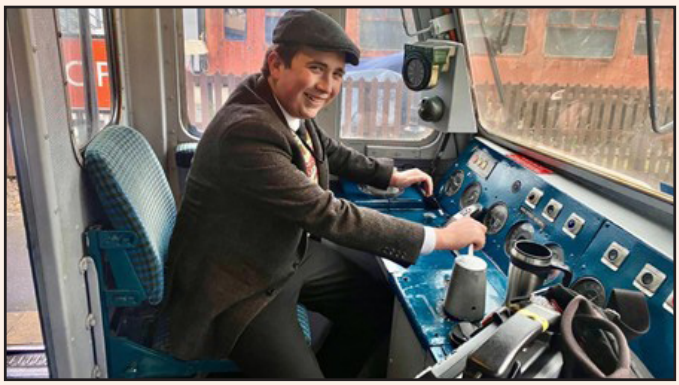
"Logan is an exceptional young man who clearly has a future in rail; he was literally banging on my door when the opportunity came along for him to train as a Sentinel driver," he said.

"As well as being able to drive the locomotive, he is also expected to talk to customers.

"I'm sure this is just the start of a long career for Logan, and I'm pleased I've been able to help him on his way."



Logan today and when he was young!



Logan at the controls

All Saints' Catholic Church Lanchester

Welcome to Father Vernatius Edih



We held a special service and mass on Tuesday the 19th August to celebrate and congratulate Father Vernatius Edih. He was celebrating his 19th anniversary as an ordained priest. Father Vernatius joined us at the beginning of this year from Nigeria. On Tuesday many parishioners joined him for obligation and mass, to thank and celebrate with him; it was a lovely shared mass.

Father Vernatius has now been appointed Parish Priest at All Saints' Catholic Church and St Teresa's Church Annfield Plain. So, we will hopefully celebrate many more special occasions and events with Father Vernatius in the future. Father has been welcomed into our two churches. He is very happy to be staying with us, and he is looking forward to getting to know everyone. (I don't think he is too happy with our cold weather, we will have to introduce him to a hot water bottle!!)



The current Parish Priest, Father Charles, has been appointed by Bishop Stephen to be Parish Priest at Mary Magdalen RC Church along with St Cuthbert RC Church Seaham also St Joseph RC Church Murton. Father Charles has been with us as our Priest at All Saints RC church and St Teresa's since March 2023, He will be sadly missed. Father Charles officiated on Sunday 31st August at morning mass at All Saints RC Church; this was his last mass in our Parish. I am sure he will come back to visit us. It has been wonderful getting to know you Father Charles, you will be greatly missed.

Farewell to Father Charles



A very busy weekend for Father Charles who is moving to Seaham, to be Parish Priest at St Mary Magdalen, St Cuthbert and St Joseph's Murton.

His last mass at St Teresa's was Saturday evening on the 30th August. It proved to be a very emotional evening. Then on Sunday 31st August a morning mass at All Saints R.C. Church. On looking around the church, there were quite a few, I noticed, "experiencing one of those special moments when memories sneak out of one's eyes and roll down one's cheeks". Once again so emotional. Many parishioners after mass popped up to the Parish Centre to enjoy light refreshments.

It was a long goodbye for Father Charles. He will be missed but we wish him every success in his new parish.

Lestrine Kelly

Top. Father Vernatius with some of his parishioners
Centre. l-r Deacon Peter Smith, Father Charles and Father Vernatius
Bottom Father Charles's Farewell Mass



From the House

I hope residents have had a restful and enjoyable summer break.
Summer Recess for MPs means we get to spend more time on the ground in our constituencies, away from the sometimes febrile political hothouse of Westminster, hearing what local organisations' and people's grassroots concerns are so we can then push these in the Commons when the House returns to sitting in September.
However, I did also manage to take time out for a holiday with my family, as well as taking them to County Durham attractions such as our first time seeing the spectacular Kynren show!
It's now back to work at full blast both locally and in Westminster.
I have a special advice surgery for Lanchester residents, which I'm holding jointly with ward councillor Alison Gray, on Saturday 13 September. I also have an advice surgery focused on crime and antisocial behaviour issues, jointly with our Police and Crime Commissioner, Joy Allen, on Friday 12 September. If you would like to book an appointment at either of these surgeries, or more generally if you are a constituent in need of assistance or advice, please do not hesitate to email me at luke.akehurst.mp@parliament.uk , call me at 0191 371 8834, or visit my website www.lukeakehurstmp.co.uk .
I also wanted to draw residents' attention to the consultation which the new administration at the County Council is running about whether to change Durham's local Council Tax Reduction Scheme and remove some of the discounts offered to the 32,000 poorest working age households in Durham. I urge residents to respond to the consultation online before the deadline of 26 September 2025: https://letstalkcountydurham.co.uk/en-GB/folders/lctrs
During the summer, the main political issue in the national news has continued to be the immigration and asylum system. That's also been the case in terms of what local residents raise with me on the doorstep and in correspondence. We don't have any hotels housing asylum seekers in North Durham, but HMOs (Houses in Multiple Occupation) for asylum seekers have been an issue locally. I've been very clear to Ministers that North Durham isn't the right place for a proliferation of HMOs, as our towns and villages already have long-standing economic and social issues to contend with. I'm pleased that the Home Office and their contractor, MEARS, have been responsive to local concerns and stopped acquiring HMOs here. I'm also impressed by the way the local police have handled incidents and maintained public order and community cohesion at a time when feelings have been running high.

Luke Akehurst Member of Parliament for North Durham

House of Commons

County Councillor Update

Dear Resident,
I hope you have had a good summer and enjoyed the lovely weather that we had? On Friday 15th August I felt privileged to remember VJ Day, in a poignant service at Burnhope Picnic Site. The words read by Reverend Sutherland were very moving as we remembered the sacrifice of the men and women who fought and lost their lives in World War Two, but also that of the families who lost sons and husbands. As part of my holiday, I visited the Bomber Command Memorial in Lincoln and saw the names of my two great-uncles and the 58,000 other men and women who died in the war – a stark reminder of the horrors of war.
Unfortunately, the dry weather and Storm Floris have caused an issue with a number of trees in the ward, including one very large tree in the cemetery blowing down into Ashdown Grove. It was a miracle that no one was hurt and that a car wasn't crushed. I have reported a number of overgrown trees, verges, and overhanging branches. The team is very busy and it is taking a while to deal with the workload.
As you will probably be aware there have been developments at Lanchester Medical Centre. Following my meeting with the ICB and emails to the Care Quality Commission highlighting some concerns, an inspection of the practice took place at the end of July. As a result, the practice is temporarily being run by South Durham Health CIC GP Federation and we hope to see additional GP provision put in place. I hope this will improve things for those of you who contacted me.
Parking continues to be an issue in the village. Several of you have sent me pictures of the nuisance parking and I have seen and challenged it myself. I have asked for parking enforcement to visit the village more often and continue to work to improve things.



Following the recent shooting in the village, I am receiving regular updates from the neighbourhood policing team regarding issues in the village and the increase in patrols they are doing.
I feel very lucky to represent a ward so beautiful as Lanchester and of course it is our many green spaces and wonderful businesses that make it such a great place. To that effect I have contacted 'Visit Durham' and I will be working over the coming months on marketing the village and raising its profile within and outside of the county.
We have fantastic attractions, holiday accommodation, shops, restaurants and bars that make the village what it is. Please look out for information about Lanchester Food Week, organised by Barrie McDermid to take place in October half term. [See separate report in this edition – Editor]
As ever, if you need help with an issue, please get in touch on alison.gray2@durham.gov.uk and I will do my very best to help you.

Dear Village

We now have our MP, our County Councillor and our Parish Councillor for years to come. Over to them to ensure that the Remembrance Sunday ceremony in Lanchester is held at the correct time, with all traffic redirected along the bypass rather than through the village between 10:45 and 11:30 that morning. People tell me that I am incapable of letting this go. They are right. I am.

Yours faithfully,
David Lindsay

Wild Notes

It's probably the most distinctive call in Britain. You'll hear it in films, read it in books and if you step outside on a still evening you might catch the iconic '*too-wit too-woo'* of the tawny owl.
Despite being one of our most familiar bird calls and referred to as the song of the generic owl, many don't know that the *'too-wit too-woo'* is actually made up of two separate calls- the female calling *'too-wit'* and the male responding with *'too-woo'.* Pairs also communicate with a call and response *'hoo-hoo-hoo' 'kew-wick'* between male and female.
While it is relatively easy to hear these birds, sightings may be limited to a motionless mottled grey-brown bird with a big round head, large dark eyes, and a dark ring around its face roosting in a tree, a fleeting glimpse of a rounded winged bird with a paler underside gliding across a heavily wooded country lane, or a silhouetted shape hooting from a neighbour's chimney.
A clue to an owl's daytime whereabouts could be locating little pellets of regurgitated food parts (like mouse bones or feathers) coughed up from its perch. Tawny owls mainly eat rodents, spotted and located with its huge, dark eyes and pinpoint hearing, and then caught by swooping silently from its favourite hunting perch. However, they are known to hunt a wide variety of food items, from birds and amphibians to young rabbits and even insects and worms when food is scarce. They truly are adaptable birds!
So, the next time you hear a hoot outside your bedroom window, picture a silent assassin, a haunting call and a familiar companion, gliding across a silent nighttime world.

Our wildlife family

Photos below by Tommy Coulson. On the left the tawny owl and the right the family feeding.





Ladies who lunch

On a lovely summer's day, we headed to Beamish Hall to lunch at the Stables. As we walked through the grounds and courtyard the display of flowers was amazing. When we finally found our table, we noticed that the menu was named the Coach House, so we wondered if we would like this change. Well, we did.

For mains we chose steak and ale pie; scotch pie; chicken, bacon and mushroom pie. All served with garden peas, gravy and delicious chips. Bacon brioche with chips; quiche Lorraine with salad and coleslaw; quiche with tomato, mushroom and chutney with salad and coleslaw and chips.

Desserts were chosen from a large selection of gateaux and cakes - what a choice!! Chosen were lemon gateaux, carrot cake, chocolate eclair, custard slice and cream slice. After tea or coffee, we wandered back through the flowers. Good food and company.
We hope to be back as the service was excellent.

The Gourmet Girls



Wildlife Group

Edible or poisonous?

Did you know that it is quite hard to poison yourself with fungi but a good meal of the most poisonous species results in an agonizing death. You start by enjoying a very tasty plate of mushrooms but later that day you start to feel very, very ill. You cheer up when you start to recover a few days later then about a week later you die of liver failure.
Most fungi are edible, but most are also rather tasteless and not worth the effort.
However, the ones that are edible and tasty are wonderful, much more interesting and flavourful than anything you can buy in the shops.
If you have fancied the idea of foraging, why not join Lanchester Wildlife Group at their monthly meeting in October when Melisa Young will be talking about fun finding fungi.
Tuesday 14th October. 7.30pm at Lanchester Community Centre. Melisa Young: "Fun Finding Fungi."

Noel Jackson



Death Cap



Field mushroon



Common Funnel Cap (left)

Barbara leaves the Village Voice team

Barbara Ridley has had to stand down from the time-consuming task of compiling the Village Voice and preparing each edition ready for printing, a task she has performed since the Voice restarted after Covid. Barbara was responsible for the design of the "new look" of the Village Voice which has been much appreciated. I am sure you will all agree that it has continued to be a big success and will continue under Keith Brown who has taken over the task, assisted by Barbara if required, as well as editing the Voice.



Apart from the bunch of flowers, Barbara will also be given the choice of the normal gift upon departure such as a choice of cruise, but due to the financial restraints imposed by the Voice Board, we have decided that we will have to restrict the holiday to a weekend in Pity Me which is a very handy place to nip to Beamish for a day visit, although we cannot include the entrance money.
Anybody with desktop publishing experience and willing to volunteer please contact the Voice at lanchestervillagevoice@yahoo.co.uk.

Mike Stoddart



Poppy's walks

Good day readers and this month's walk takes place at nearby Langley Park.The Humans sometimes take me there for a change of scenery - for them and for me - and we start off from outside the village Post Office.
As you will know by now, I am Poppy the Patterdale Terrier who enjoys sharing the walks I lead my humans on.
Anyhow, from Langley Park post office we walk along Front Street, passing the co-op on our left, until we see the cricket club on our right. Sadly, that has been allowed to fall into neglect, unlike Lanchester's splendid facility. Opposite the cricket club we turn left along Hospital Road. This is a narrow lane so-called because there was once an isolation hospital at the end. Nowadays there is a gated community hidden from view by trees. I had to be content with sticking my nose under the gate.
We turned left at the gates until we came to some greenery then we turned right and onto a field. We then turned left across another field before turning right - do keep up! And that took us up a slight incline, so we were able to look back over the village when we got to the of top of that field. We turned right again and followed a series of footpaths which meant we kept the houses of Langley Park on our right and the fields leading up to Esh Village on our left. There was no livestock in these fields, so I was able to run around contentedly. There was also a small stream running across one of the fields to give me a welcome drink. When we saw from the fields that the houses on the right had come to an end we turned right down a farm track and this led us back to the main road, opposite Langley Park cemetery. We crossed the road and walked past the cemetery - the male Human informed me that someone called Sir Bobby Robson is buried there - before turning right at a sign which said the road was called Birch Tree Grove. This is a new housing estate where most of the homes now seem to be occupied.
By walking through the estate, we came to an entrance with a doggy bin attached which led us onto the Lanchester railway path. Instead of turning left towards Lanchester we turned right to head back to Langley Park, because of course our car was parked there. But instead of going straight back to the car we followed the old railway path for around half a mile before leaving it on our left near the entrance to Diggerland.
We followed a narrow footpath which took us to a footbridge over the River Browney, where I could dip my paws and have another slurp of the cool water. After crossing the footbridge, we turned right and walked through some woods until we came to a pleasant wetland area bedecked with wooden animal sculptures. This is a really well kept area and well worth visiting - a credit to Langley Park, if I may be so bold as to venture that opinion. From the wetlands we join the main road which takes us back into the centre of the village, and back to the car.
The walk took us about one hour 45 minutes to complete, and I would thoroughly recommend it, to canines and humans alike.

Purple Haze – Part 2

Skin Crawlers is just like Goosebumps for kids aged 5 and up. All Skin Crawlers books are standalone and can be read in any order. By local Lanchester author – Matthew James.

Below is an extract from Purple Haze – Book 5 in Skin Crawlers series of books by Matthew James. Released on 8th August for Amazon Kindle, Paperback and on Amazon Kindle Unlimited.

Last time, Lavender was worried about starting school. This time she's managed ok so far on her first day, but now the teacher seemed to be asking a lot of the new students…

"You will each come up here, tell us your name and something special about you, so we can get to know you better!" Mrs. Kennedy flashed more lipstick on her teeth. "Isn't that fun?"

Immediately, Lavender's stomach did flips. In front of the class? What could she say that was special about her?

Lavender's head swam as she tried hard to think of something or anything she could say that was interesting about her… She loved jollof rice. Was that special enough?

Her heart began to beat faster and faster, it felt like it was thudding inside her ears. She tried to concentrate as each student stood in front of the white board and said who they were, with interesting things like "I collect Pokémon cards," or "I can read a full book in one night."



All too soon it was Harpreet's turn and then Lavender's.

She got up and decided to focus on the white board in front of her, her eyes not shifting as the other students were whispering about her again.

But something strange was happening on the white board, it was beginning to swirl…

Lavender stopped as the colour white was turning lilac and then a deep shade of purple as something was opening, a swirling, purple portal…

If you can, please support this local and self-published author!

Yours, Matthew. Please follow my Instagram for more information Instagram.com/

WI News

At our meeting on Monday 4 August 36 members and 1 visitor were welcomed.
Marie gave details of upcoming events then we listened to our speaker for the evening, Sarah Defty from The Old Ice Cream Shop in the village. Sarah gave us a very interesting and informative talk about the history of her family up to her opening the Ice Cream Shop village, which is well worth a visit! She also brought some of her lovely ice cream which we enjoyed with strawberries and blueberries.
Visitors and new members are always welcome. Come and join us, it will be lovely to see you.
One of our upcoming events is our Coffee Morning on Saturday 4 October at the Methodist Church, 10am to 12 noon. There will be lovely homemade goodies, sales tables with jigsaws, books, scarves, jewellery, etc. Please come and join us.
We look forward to seeing you

Marie Murphy

Lanchester Local History Society

Our August meeting talk was given by Richard Annis, the recently retired Senior Archaeologist with Archaeological Services Durham University. The topic was how archaeology fits into the planning process and in particular how it happens in the UK.

We started with a quiz of sorts involving photographs of places across the north east. This was to demonstrate that archaeology is everywhere, never to disappear.

One photo was of the salt marshes at Seal Sands which, although innocuous, it was pointed out were formed by the historically earlier eras where salt extraction had taken place. Archaeology is everywhere, never to disappear, was the mantra for the talk.

Richard next introduced us to some of the early antiquarians and collectors of artefacts, one being our own well known Canon Greenwell. By the late 1880s the Ancient Monuments Protection Act came into being; this involved a list of sites across the UK, sadly not one in Northumberland, County Durham or North Yorkshire. However, it did create a team of inspectors, the first one being Lieutenant General Augusta Lane Fox Pitt Rivers, a noted collector of artefacts and founder of Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford. His style of collecting saw a change in practice as he valued everything found at dig sites, not just the trophy items as had been the practice of his contemporaries.

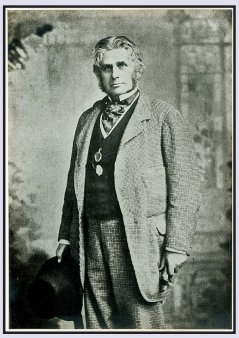
WW1 triggered national concerns about our past being erased by building. Bomb sites needed to be cleared, and new buildings erected, but what was underneath the ground in many places surprised people. The 20th Century saw a rash of planning guidance requiring surveys and bringing requirements for archaeological evidence to be sought with all changes to land use and building.

Richard was able to show us in pictures some of the works he has been involved with in Newcastle on the Melbourne Street build where a major run of Roman Wall was excavated, recorded and subsequently buried under buildings. History is not stopping development and in many cases, it's being found, recorded and integrated into the foundations of the works.

Marian Morrison



Roman Wall at Melbourne Street Dig in Newcastle
Canon Greenwell (below right)
LG Lane Fox Pitt Rivers (below left)





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Bourne & Co Welcomes Two New Ducks to the Flock

Bourne & Co are delighted to welcome two new friendly faces to our growing flock. Rachael Rodgers joins us as Lettings Manager, bringing a wealth of knowledge and a calm, caring approach to managing our rental portfolio. She'll make sure landlords and tenants alike are in safe wings. Meanwhile, Maxine Burrows joins as Office Administrator, keeping everything running smoothly and supporting our sales progression – the glue that holds the nest together.

As ever, we're here to give a duck about your property journey. Did you know Q3 is often the best time to sell, before the market slows with festive plans? Demand in the village for three and four-bedroom homes is especially strong, so if you're considering moving, don't wait until Christmas turkeys take centre stage. Give us a call or pop into the office – we'd love to help you feather your next nest.

Simon Bourne | 01207 529 900 | 07450 642 976





Orchard

Our annual apple picking and pressing sessions will take place on the 20th of September and the 4th of October! It's an ideal chance for people to come and see how we operate and how we turn our beautiful apples into delicious fresh juice, as well as how we distribute apples to all our members! Please feel free to pop up and visit and see this process in action and maybe sample the juice for yourselves!
The orchard is such a beautiful and valuable community space, so please come up and visit!
We always welcome new members, email lanchesterorchard@outlook.com
We are also holding a coffee morning in the Methodist Chapel in the village on the morning of the 27th of September, where we will be serving drinks, cakes and bakes made by members and we will have an apple tasting table outside (weather permitting) for people to try many of the varieties that we grow in the orchard!



Lynn Hedley

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Lanchester Medical Centre Patient Participation Group

Keep smiling, it is good for you!



Smiling is the universal language of kindness: lost for words, try flashing a smile. Sharing a smile improves your mood and the mood of others around you. A happy face is considered a sign of confidence, capability, being in control, and being more approachable. Having a smile can help others trust you, with studies showing you are much more likely to trust those who smile.

When someone smiles genuinely and confidently, it projects a sense of friendliness and positivity and makes you want to smile back. This self-assuredness is attractive to others, as it signifies a person comfortable in their own skin and exudes self-confidence.

A smile is powerful, increasing mood-enhancing hormones while decreasing stress-enhancing hormones, reducing overall blood pressure and relaxing your body. The muscles used when you smile triggers your brain to produce endorphins that relieve pain and stress.

As well as making you look better, a smile strengthens your immune system, encouraging your body to produce more white blood cells, which are important for overall health and protecting yourself against illness. One study found that following visits from story tellers, puppeteers and handicraft artists to hospitalised children that brought smiles and laughter, it increased their white cells count.

How can you keep smiling in stressful times? Smiling has plenty of benefits, but it can be difficult to share a smile on more challenging days or in harder periods of life.

Try doing what you love, whether it's painting, playing games, listening to music, sewing, watching TV. These are all great ways to positively boost your mood and help relieve tension.

Keeping connected with friends and family makes you feel instantly happier. If family and friends are not nearby, then phone or Facetime, or simply messaging; all have the same positive impacts. Some stresses cannot be solved instantly, and you may need to seek professional help. In stressful situations look for the positive, try to feel positive, even when negativity starts to creep in.

Keep smiling!

Life gets more satisfying as we age. A study looked at hundreds of data samples involving a total of 460,902 participants, found that life satisfaction decreases between the ages of 9 and 16, but then gradually increases until the age of 70.

References
Psychologytoday.com: https://www.psychologytoday.com/gb/blog/cutting-edge-leadership/201206/there-s-magic-in-your-smile
Everydaypower.com: https://everydaypower.com/reasons-to-smile/ NHS: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/feel-better-and-happy/

Business As Usual at Lanchester Medical Centre

The PPG is happy to report that Joanne Marshman, Practice Manager, and the team at the Medical Centre are continuing to provide a service to their patients with the interim support of South Durham Health CIC GP Federation (SDH).

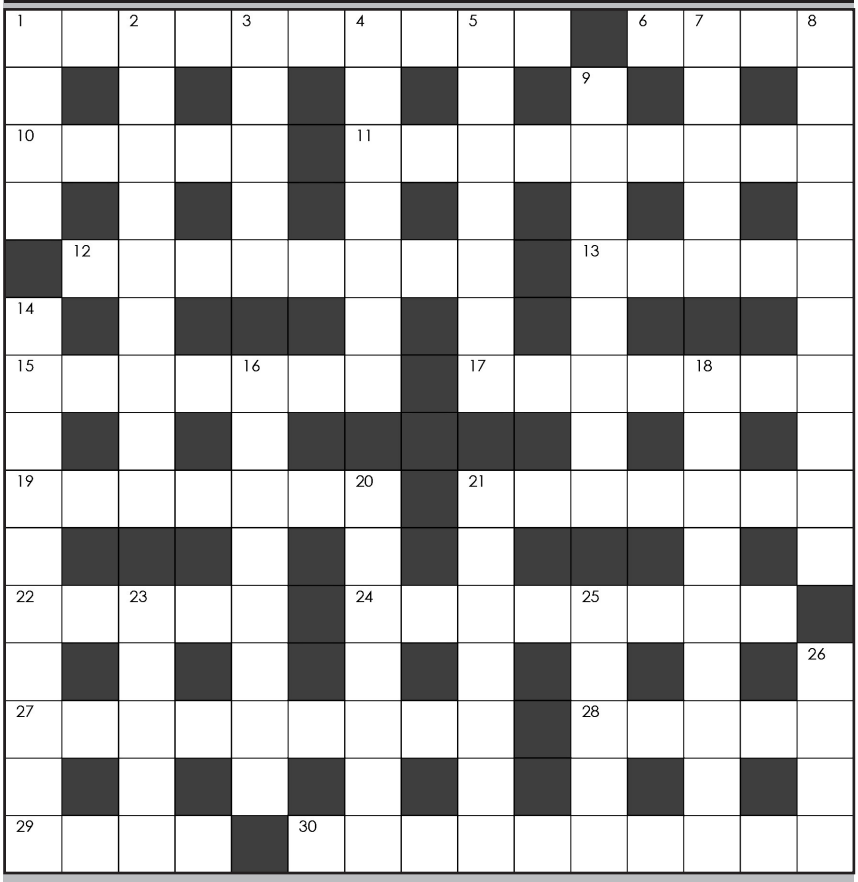
One of those providing full time support to Joanne and the team is Tom Sullivan, Business Manager with SDH. Tom has worked with the South Durham Federation for nearly 4 years and prior to that worked for several years in a Practice Manager role. He is therefore well placed to provide management support during this transitional period following the recent CQC inspection and the imposition of restrictions on Dr Kalra, Lanchester Medical Centre's Registered Provider.

The immediate priority remains continuity of patient care, and the team is working to ensure high quality clinical cover.

If any patient of the practice has any concerns or worries relating to their care, Joanne and Tom are keen to provide support. You can do this by calling into the Medical Centre and asking for a complaints pack.

Sue Graham
Chair, Patient Participation Group

CROSSWORD 211



Clues

Across

1. Retail outlet (5,5)
6. Long poem or literary work (4)
10. Character in the Addams Family (5)
11. Listen secretly (9)
12. Gemstone (8)
13. A mighty oak might grow from a little one (5)
15. Electioneer (7)
17. Blood Count (7)
19. Insects (6)
21. Late (7)
22. Part of Marilyn's real name (5)
24. Aromatic shrub used in cookery (8)
27. Secret lie about Richard's resting place (9)
28. Roman goddess of the hunt (5)
29. Type of exercise and meditation (4)
30. Printed notes (5,5)

Down

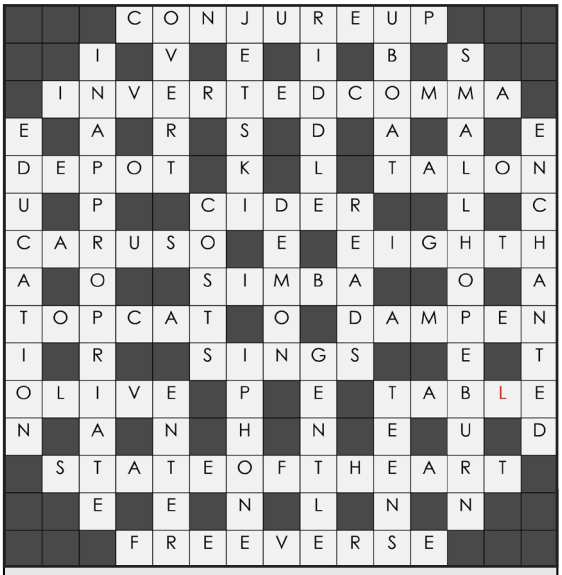
1. Felines (4)
2. Peninsula between the Black Sea and Mediterranean (4,5)
3. Opposite of day (5)
4. 'They see' around (3,4)
5. Engrossed (7)
7. Teesside takeaway treat (5)
8. Home of The Little Mermaid (10)
9. Adventurous activity (8)
14. Film blueprint (10)
16. Full of life (8)
18. Passageway beneath a road (9)
20. Score or mark (7)
21. Watch (7)
23. Bitterly regretting (5)
25. Computer hardware device (5)
26. Bathroom powder (4)

Name:_____

Address: _____

_____

Please send your completed entries for the £10 prize draw by **Tuesday 7th October 2025** to the Village Voice, c/o Lanchester Community Centre, Newbiggen Lane, Lanchester, DH7 0HY



Solution Crossword 210

There were 18 entries of which 14 were correct.
The winner, drawn out of the hat was Adam Lincoln

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Engines Roar for Lanchester's Vintage Club Charity Tractor Run



Farmers and tractor enthusiasts alike gathered on the 17th August at Suddes' Farm, off Newbiggen Lane in Lanchester, to take part in the Lanchester Vintage Club Charity Tractor run, which combined local history and vintage machinery to bring the village's heritage to life.
Organised by John Burdon, Tony Suddes, and John Cherryman, the run spanned over thirty miles in and around the Lanchester area, featuring an impressive and diverse line-up of tractors both modern and vintage. The presentation seemed to build a sense of excitement and camaraderie amongst those behind the wheel and spectators.



When asked about the frequency of the events, one of the organisers, Tony Suddes, explained: "The club's been going for about 11 years. We plan our events a year ahead and usually put on five runs annually. We always get a great turnout."
The Anne Suddes Memorial Cup (dedicated to Tony's mother) was presented before the drivers mounted their machinery, an appropriate way to honour a valued member of the community and active member. Tony described the award as a "way of keeping her connection to the club alive," and said the cup means "a lot to us as a family."



As the winner was called, David Bell stepped up to claim his first win, coming from his striking red tractor. Bell admitted the result caught him off guard:
"I felt really emotional, actually," he said, beaming with pride, before adding, "I've never really won anything before. I only bought this tractor about three weeks ago, so it's amazing to see it win."



David was all smiles as he explained his enthusiasm for shows in the local area - he has done many this year and is aiming for many more joy filled days of driving. "What I love most is meeting different people. You're always making new friends. There's a real sense of community," said David.
With the presentation complete, the tractors set off across roads and fields under glorious sunshine, a fitting tribute to Anne Suddes, and another memorable chapter in Lanchester's proud rural tradition.

Kenzie Harrison

Photos Clockwise from the top: Peter Suddes presents the Anne Suddes Memorial Cup to David Bell; tractors lined up for the judging; starting their run led by John Burdon; and David Bell with his winning tractor.

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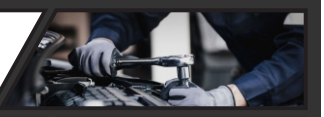

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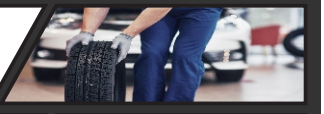

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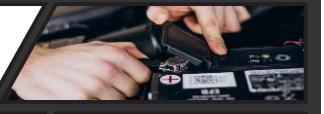

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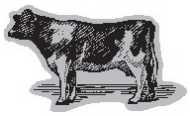
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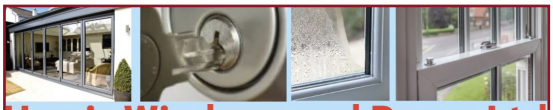
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VJ Memorial Service

A splendid vista of a colourful wildflower meadow, including poppies, provided the backdrop for a moving VJ Day memorial service. The event, at Burnhope picnic area, included the lighting of a beacon. It was held on Friday, August 15, the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II following the Japanese surrender.

Around 100 participants attended the ceremony, conducted by Rev Lesley Sutherland ably assisted by The Boys' Brigade, Lanchester Brass Band and the Glendale Singers.

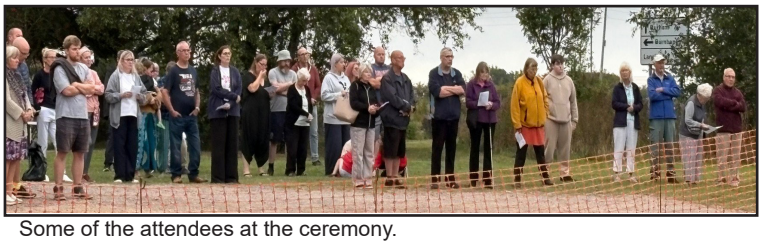
Following prayers and singing the beacon was lit accompanied by a piper.

Rev Lesley said: "But the war did not end in 1945. It has not ended yet. So, we light this beacon as a sign of hope, praying for an end to all wars."

After the lighting of the beacon the Kohima Epitaph was said: When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow we gave our day.

Then the gathering stood while The Last Post was played, and the National Anthem sung.

Neil McKay



Some of the attendees at the ceremony.



The beacon is lit and silence observed.

Boys' Brigade

The highlight of the end of term is always the camp which this year was held at the Boys' Brigade owned Broomley Grange, an activity and camping Centre at Stocksfield. We arrived on the Friday afternoon and set up the tents ready for the boys' arrival later that evening. Games were played and supper eaten and then to bed. Next morning after breakfast and the dishes washed, we had an activity of campcraft which showed the lads how to light a fire without matches. All succeeded and several bonfires were well alight when it was time to extinguish them and make the area safe.

We then moved on to making a camp shelter which was certainly tackled with much enthusiasm. A whole raft of games and activities followed until lunch time. During the afternoon some of the senior boys helped Alex from Broomley Grange to position two glamping pods in readiness for their use next year. Alex, who works for the Forestry Commission at Kielder, then led us all on a walk around the extensive grounds identifying the different trees and telling us which ones would be the most valuable if they had to be felled. It was a most interesting tour of the grounds.

After tea it was the highlight of the weekend, the bonfire. Singing camp songs and toasting marshmallows before making the fire safe and retiring to bed. All too soon it was Sunday and time to pack away the tents and head for home after another superb camping weekend.

Several of our members came together on the 15th August for the lighting of the beacon at Burnhope Picnic area to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VJ Day.

Our new 2025/2026 year will be full of different activities and crafts and will have started by the time you read this, but if you have a young boy between the age of 5 and 18 years, we have a section in Boys Brigade that caters for him and we would be pleased to welcome him. Anchor Boys is on a Thursday 6.10-7.10pm (5-8 years), Junior Section is on a Wednesday 6.15-7.30pm (8-11 years) and Company Section (11-18 years) is also Wednesday from 7.30-9pm.







Eric Hepplewhite

KoGs

We are back as usual on a Monday Evening at KoGs after our summer break from Monday 8th September 5pm-7.30pm.

We are very pleased to let you know we have opened up our books again and have a few spaces available if you would like to come along and give it a go! At KoGs we offer a range of activities including: 2 course meals, games, messy games, day trips, evening trips, residential weekend trips, crafts, drama, cell sessions/ life skills and much much more!

We start at 5pm to 7.30pm, Mondays during School Terms (and some half terms). At Lanchester Methodist Church for all ages 8 – 18 years!

The cost of the sessions is £3 per person weekly or £30 per person a term but your first week is free!

All activities (excluding additional trips) and your weekly meal is included.

We are open to anyone who would like to join us, you don't have to have a religious background!

For more information contact Laura & Peter Cole on 07428500059 / 01207 654291 or email kidsofgod@hotmail.co.uk

We also have a Facebook page if you'd like to see more or get in touch with us that way, www.facebook.com/kidsofgodlanchester

Laura Cole



End of term party.



Musical Memories Harvest Special
Join us for music, refreshments, fun activities and friendship. 2pm-3.30pm on the 1st October. Lynwood House, Durham Road, Lanchester. Musical Memories is a fun, friendly and stimulating music group using the ability of music to improve your brain activity, wellbeing and mood. We welcome people living with conditions that affect memory. For further information email lanchesterdfc@gmail.com

Paradiso Social Club
THE QUIET GIRL: October 12th
"This beautiful and compassionate coming of age film from first-time feature director Colm Bairéad, based on the novella Foster by Claire Keegan, is a child's-eye look at our fallen world; already it feels to me like a classic". Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian. Starring Carrie Crowley, Andrew Bennett, Catherine Clinch.
Set in 1981 rural Ireland, this film tells the story of a young girl, Cáit, who is sent away for the summer from her dysfunctional family to live with "her mother's people". These are Seán and Eibhlín Cinnsealach, a middle-aged couple she has never met. Slowly Cáit blossoms and discovers a new way of living, but in this house where affection grows and there are meant to be no secrets, she discovers one. Lanchester Community Centre. 7pm refreshments and raffle. Film starts at 7.30pm. Members: £4, Non-members: £5. Annual membership: £5

WI
The next WI Meeting is Monday October 6th, 7pm, Lanchester Community Centre. We are also hosting a coffee morning on Saturday 4th October, Methodist Church, 10am to 12 noon. Looking forward to seeing you!

Willow Burn
Willow Burn Hospice Nurses Christmas Fair at Willow Burn Hospice
Saturday 29 November, 11am - 2pm. Free entry, everyone welcome.

Willow Burn Hospice Light Up a Life Remembrance Service
All Saints Catholic Church, Kitswell Road, Lanchester
Sunday 7 December at 2pm. Everyone welcome

Further information about both events coming soon. www.willowburnhospice.org.uk/our-events

City Theatre Open Night
On Friday 24th October at 7.30, Durham Dramatic Society, based at The City Theatre in Durham, are having an Open Night for anyone who has an interest in theatre, either behind the scenes or on the stage. Come along and find out more. All 18's and over welcome.
For more information contact Lesley Anderson 07531858341.

Library
Library Book Club
On Monday October 27th at 2.30 to 3.30pm, the group will be discussing 'Skin Deep' by Liz Nugent, 'a twisted psychological thriller that illustrates with perfection that beauty is only skin deep' (Reviewer on Goodreads). This was an excellent thriller but will the group agree?
Thursday Book Club
On Thursday October 17th from 4.00-5.00pm, 'The Colour of Bee Larkham's Murder' by Sarah J. Harris. A book about Synesthesia, Jasper sees the world as a kaleidoscope of colour, and what colour is murder? Would you like to read this? It sounds interesting. If you would like to join this group, pop into the library and speak to the librarians.
Pins and Needles will meet up on October 2nd from 10-11.30am. Bring along your wool, thread, needles and patterns and share your makes and get advice too. Do you like knitting, crocheting? Everyone is welcome, enjoy.
Scrabble Group meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 1.30pm to 3.30 pm. Do you enjoy this word game and want to get on the Triple Word Square? Come along and enjoy the company.
Rummikub Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 1.30 to 3.30pm. A great strategic but simple game with tiles that are always changing. It is a very enjoyable game
Children's crafts are available every afternoon and Saturday. Different crafts, ideas and materials are set out in the library for children to be creative. Pop along with your children and enjoy.
Book Loan Reminders. Did you know that you can ask Crystal, our librarian, to put a reminder on your library ticket when your books are due? It is very useful, getting an email reminder. Ask at the library.

Social Club
OCTOBER 4th
DIXIE
OCTOBER 11th
ANGIE
OCTOBER 18th
PETER HOBAN
OCTOBER 25th
SOPHIE DANIELLE

NOVEMBER 1st
KELLY DIVINE
NOVEMBER 8th
DEBBIE TAYLOR
NOVEMBER 15th
D PATTERSON
NOVEMBER 22nd
SUSAN FEEGAN
NOVEMBER 29th
MICHAEL WALTERS

Wildlife group
If you have fancied the idea of foraging, why not join Lanchester Wildlife Group at their monthly meeting in October when Melisa Young will be talking about "Fun Finding Fungi". Tuesday 14th October, 7.30pm, Lanchester Community Centre.

Cuppa and company lunch club
The next meeting of the lunch club held at Lynwood House will be Tuesday 14th October 2025, 12pm start, all welcome.

Lanchester Partnership Friends of Longovicium
Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month (excluding December), 7.30pm at Lanchester Community Centre. The meetings are normally held in an upstairs room.
Instead of the Thursday 25 September meeting we are having our FREE open evening in the Community Centre Main Hall. 6-9pm. See our Facebook page (Friends of Longovicium) for full details.

Meeting - Thursday 23 October back to normal, Community Centre 7.30-9.00pm

If you would like to join the Friends of Longovicium, or if you have information you think the group would find useful, please contact. Mrs E Williams Tel: 01207 520063 or Rodney Hawkins Tel: 0191 4103472 Email: hawkins_15@sky.com

Lanchester Local History Society
We will be meeting in room 3 at the community centre as usual for all the meetings to the end of the year. On Friday 3rd October we will be hearing from George Nairn who will be taking us on a journey along the A68 in his usual format of picture postcards.
On Friday 7th November Julian Harrop, one of the team from the museum at Beamish, is joining us to tell us all about "A forgotten NE photographer Charles Nichols of Jesmond". Then as the winter rushes in, the meeting on 5th December will be our social event and quiz. Always an evening that springs surprises for us all. Don't forget we meet at 6.45 (security system negotiation required) for a prompt 7.00 start. All are most welcome to join us, we may be the history society but we aren't needing dusting off.

Flower Club
Wednesday 22nd October - Social Afternoon.
Saturday 22nd November - Christmas Open Afternoon, 2 pm, Lanchester Community Centre main hall. Demonstrator Linda Fraser, "Fantastically Festive". Ticket price to be agreed.

City Theatre
The City Theatre, Durham, presents 'Alys Always' a psychological drama adapted by Lucinda Coxon, from the novel by Harriet Lane. Sept 21 to Sept 27. Frances works on a Sunday newspaper, but nobody takes much notice of her. After arriving at the scene of a fatal road accident her life starts to change. Contains strong language.
Tickets £9.50 (concessions £8.50 Sun/ Mon/ Tues) from Durham Gala box office. 03000266600 or www.durhamcitytheatre.co.uk and follow the link for tickets. Performances Sun 2.30, Mon to Fri 7.30, Sat 2.30.

WHAT'S ON - September/October 2025

Acappella Choir
(singing without musical accompaniment)
This is held in the Chapter House of All Saints church every Monday between 10.30 and 12. New members are always welcome. No previous choir experience necessary. We sing a wide variety of songs, led by Sheila Trow, and are open to both men and women.

Methodist Church Coffee Mornings
Coffee mornings are held every Saturday at the Methodist Church between 10 and 12 noon. If you would like to organise a coffee morning for your organisation, please contact Judith Brown on 01207 521898 or email judith@bordinelbrown.me.uk.

Wellbeing Walk
Every Monday at 1pm on the village green next to the war memorial. Walk lasts up to 90 minutes, all welcome. To book please visit www.durham.gov.uk/walkdurham or call 03000 262539.

Playgroup
Every Friday at 9:30 at Croft View Halls. Find us on Facebook, 'Lanchester's new playgroup'.

The Lanchester Community Orchard Work Sessions
We meet regularly to maintain and care for the orchard. Come and join us to find out more and help look after the trees. There are jobs for all ages and we always stop for coffee! New members are always welcome. For all our work session dates please visit the What's On page of our website lanchesterorchard.org

Lanchester Hiking Group
Meets at 10am on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. Walks are about 5 miles long within a 30 minute radius of Lanchester – lifts provided. For further details please call Helen Thomas on 07712425623 (or email hdbthomas@live.com).

Monday Art Group
We are a small friendly group who enjoy painting and drawing, and come together to learn, and give each other support in making art. We meet each Monday in the Community Centre from 10.00am to 12pm with an occasional demonstration by visiting artists or our own members. New members are most welcome. Contact tojimrafferty@yahoo.com if you would like further information.

Vintage Tractor Club
Meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm in Lanchester Social Club.

Scottish Dance
Scottish dancing takes place every Friday 7.30 to 9.30 in the community centre and complete beginners are very welcome, contact Elizabeth Grayson on 0191 384 4836 for more information.

Lanchester Art Group Annual Exhibition will this year be held on Sat/Sun October 18-19th at the Community Centre. Doors open 10 am until 5pm both days and admission is £1 (children free). Over 250 original pictures to view with many for sale, scrummy refreshments also available.

Sewing Group
Every Wednesday, 1-3pm at Lanchester Community Centre. We are a small friendly group with space to grow into. We enjoy sewing, knitting, crochet, embroidery and cross stitch - as well as having a cuppa and a biscuit and sometimes cake! There is chatting and a laugh. Starting Wednesday 10th September. We do have to pay for room hire after 10th September. For more information ring Elaine 01207 520063. If no reply, please leave your name and number and Elaine will get back to you. Looking forward to meeting you and for you to join us.

Community Centre News

Here is your latest news from your Community Centre. We have been quiet over the summer as a lot of groups take a break, but things will very soon get back to normal.

What's coming:

- **80's Night** which will be held on October 25th. We have the wonderful Miranda Newton singing all the great 80's tracks, there will be a bar, dancing and included in your £12.50 ticket, is a delicious Chilli and Jacket Potato supper. The Spar are very kindly donating the ingredients for the supper and Stuart from the Community Cafe will be cooking it for us. Please come along, get dressed up, have a great night!
- **Christmas Fayre** on November 8th, 9am to 1.30pm. Santa will be visiting between 10am and 12 noon. Please come along and support us, it is a fundraiser for the Centre. There will be lots of great stalls plus lunches and refreshments will be available.

Volunteers Needed:

- We are still looking for a volunteer treasurer to help us. We use the 'EnrolPay' system for our payroll and have an added support facility included.
- We are looking for a few volunteers to help on Thursdays and Fridays, between 4.30pm and 6.30pm. It is really helpful to have someone in the office who can answer the phone, do a few tasks and take any enquiries for the visiting groups and public.

If you are interested in either of these positions, please give Alison a call at the centre.

The office is staffed Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am-1.15pm. On Tuesday and Thursdays, it's 9am-3pm. If you have any enquiries about any of the activities or clubs available, please get in touch on 01207 521275.

To keep up to date with what's going on check out our Information Point; follow us on Facebook 'Lanchester Community Centre' or check out our website - https://lanchestercc.co.uk/ or scan the NEW QR code for our website.

Marie Murphy

Lanchester Flower Club

Member of the National Association of Flower Arrangers Society

Our meeting was held on the 23rd July in Lanchester Community Centre. Our demonstrator, who is well known to the club, was Marion Hinchley, her theme was “Summertime”. Everyone enjoyed a lovely afternoon with some beautiful arrangements prepared. All eleven arrangements were raffled, with many lucky and extremely happy winners. Tea/coffee and biscuits were served, all enjoying lots of chat.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday 24th September 1.30 pm in Lanchester Community Centre. The well-known Val Guest will be our demonstrator. The theme will be “Autumn Odysseys”. All are welcome, all arrangements will be raffled. Tea/coffee and biscuits will be served. Entrance £5 for non-members. Our meeting on Wednesday 22nd October will be a social afternoon. Everyone welcome, £5 entrance for non-members. We will be holding our open afternoon meeting on Saturday 22nd November 2025 in Lanchester Community Centre main room. The demonstrator will be Linda Fraser, her theme “Fantastically Festive.” Tickets £7 from Lestrine Kelly or Helen Tomlinson. You can also pay at the door the day of the event.

It is with great sadness that the November meeting will be our final meeting. Due to declining membership numbers, rising flower and demonstrators’ costs, we will be closing the Flower Club doors. It is a very sad time as the club has been going for 52 years. Helen Tomlinson and Maureen Clarkson have been with the club from the beginning. Helen was Chairperson for a great deal of those years. Maureen was also a committee member for many of those years. Lanchester Flower Club owes these ladies a big thank you.



Lestrine Kelly

Police Report



The Home Secretary Yvette Cooper MP joined officers from Durham City Neighbourhood Police Team on an Op Pave patrol around Durham City Centre.
Across the force, high-visibility Pave patrols have made more than 100 arrests over the last two months, seizing weapons and vehicles, while recorded shoplifting has been reduced by 13 per cent over the last year.
She was also shown how Durham has achieved its target of having a named, dedicated neighbourhood officer for every community.
Op Pave is for the whole of the Durham County area, used to cut down on antisocial behaviour with extra police patrols or a noticeable police presence. Op Pave was used in Lanchester after the shooting and is used to engage police with the community. My regular community patrols are part of Op Pave.
Lanchester has been getting more foot patrols/vehicle patrols along with a “cuppa with a copper” every month so residents can come along, have a chat about concerns/issues in their community and to find out what the police are doing regarding these.
Dates for a cuppa with a copper in the Serendipity café Lanchester, Wednesday 24th September at 1:00pm, Tuesday 14th October at 10:30am and Tuesday 4th November 2025 at 10:30am. Everyone is welcome to come along and air their concerns or issues within the local area.
The car wash shooting investigations are still ongoing so I cannot give too much information. The shooting was between two rival local organised crime groups. I have been speaking with residents in Lanchester who thought the shooting was aimed at the employees who work at the car wash, this is not true. The risk to residents in the local area is low.

PCSO Paul Egan

Cricket Round Up

The firsts remain in promotion contention but unfortunately will have to try to achieve it without star batter Reuben Dun Toit. Reuben has headed back to his native South Africa for a lucrative trial for Pretoria Capitals in the SA20 and he took our best wishes with him.
Reuben has left a mark at the Club, passing 1000 runs in his 25th innings. He has scored four hundreds and two nineties and has recorded the highest individual score of 184 during the season. He has also chipped in with 16 wickets and taken 14 catches. He stood top of the League batting both in terms of league runs scored and his average.
In the past three weeks, the firsts thrashed Gateshead Fell, lost narrowly to Philadelphia and comfortably beat Sacriston. They bowled the Fell out for 138, Jamie Dass taking 4-29. Then John Meadows smashed an incredible unbeaten 103 off just 44 balls, including 30 in an over off the opening bowler. This is most likely the fastest hundred scored in a league game for Lanchester. Despite massively strengthening their team, the tally of 281 by Philadelphia looked catchable while Reuben and Jamie Dass were together but when Reuben got out for 98, we ended up 11 runs short. Then came Sacriston and both Reuben and Kieran Gohery made hundreds as they flogged their opponents for 328-2. Reuben made 147 and Kieran was unbeaten on 114, the second time that he has batted through the innings this season.
The seconds had a winning draw at Burnopfield, lost to Philadelphia and beat Sacriston. Toby Somersall top scored with 87 at Burnopfield and Dan Scott took 4-36 off 15 overs. Jack Slane took 5-65 against Philly and Tom Deaville made 64 but the middle order failed as defeat followed. 15 year old Riley Sayer made an unbeaten 48 against Sacriston before Jordan Grosert 4-23 and Tom Deaville 3-37 cleaned the opposition out.

Junior Section

The Junior season has almost run its course and games that were meant to be played in August often ended up with one team or the other conceding. The actual League seasons finished at the end of July/very start of August with the Under 11s and Under 13s moving into play offs due to there being more than one league in their age groups. The 11s entertained Bill Quay but were well beaten despite Charlie Harrison making 30 and Tommy Rolfe making 22. That pair took two of the 3 Bill Quay wickets to fall while Max Rockcliffe took the other and only conceded a miserly 6 runs in his 2 overs.
The Under 13s finished ninth in their Division which meant that they ended up in the Plate competition. They made it all the way to the Final after beating Sacriston and then having Washington and Seaham Harbour concede in the rounds that followed leaving them to face Philadelphia in the Final. They won at Sacriston beating the home side by 38 runs. Leo Roberts and Ollie Wainwright made retirement 30s while Charlie Gray was out on 29. Tight bowling by Ben Smith and Ollie Wainwright put pressure on the home team and then Tommy Rolfe took 3 wickets to put the result beyond doubt.
In the Final, Lanchester batted first but Philadelphia put them under pressure and only Ollie Wainwright was able to get going as he made 22. There was a surge of hope as Lanchester took two wickets in the first over through Will Somerville and a run out but Philly recovered to record a six wicket win.
The under 15s and under 17s both finished sixth in their age groups.

Andrew McConnell

Summer Special

Well, it's a wrap! Summer Special is over for another year. As you can see from the photos a great time was had by all as we spent time at a Garden Show! We looked at Creation and how God was pleased with what he had made, Adam and Eve eating the fruit and spoiling things. We even had a visit from some prophets(!) who told us we need to put God first. Then we learnt about God sending Jesus to sort things out and eventually about how things will become perfect again!



Our Sunday service saw parents and regular congregation joining in with lots of action songs and even a parent challenge! Save the date for next year Tuesday 25th August- Saturday 28th August 2026. We would love to see you all again and bring a friend!

Kath Jones



Willow Burn Hospice

Step Into Autumn: Walk for Wellbeing with Willow Burn Hospice

Willow Burn Hospice is inviting the community to come together for a very special event, its third *Walk for Wellbeing*. Taking place on Sunday 19 October, this uplifting walk is an opportunity to pause, reflect and enjoy the simple pleasures of autumn while supporting local hospice care.

The event promises more than just a walk. It's a chance to take some time for yourself, to connect with others and to soak up the beauty of our local countryside at one of the loveliest times of year. Whether you're walking in memory of a loved one, to enjoy the fresh air or simply to show your support for Willow Burn, every step will help make a difference to you and your community.

The route begins at the Lanchester Heritage100 Walk (Newbiggin Lane), with a 10:00am start. Families, children and your four-legged friends are all welcome. Registration costs just £5 per adult and £2.50 per child (dogs walk for free) and while fundraising is encouraged, there's no set target – every little helps.

By joining in, you'll not only enjoy the warmth of community spirit but also support the vital work Willow Burn Hospice does for patients and families in the area.

To find out more or to register, visit www.willowburnhospice.org.uk/walks-for-wellbeing or email aenglish@willowburnhospice.org.uk.

Let's step into autumn together and make this a truly memorable day for our community**.**

A Special Birthday with a Special Gift from George Grieve

Lanchester resident George Grieve celebrated a remarkable milestone recently, his 98th birthday, surrounded by friends and family at the village's much-loved Black Bull. But instead of gifts, George asked for something truly meaningful, donations to Willow Burn Hospice.

Thanks to the generosity of his guests, George's birthday celebration raised an incredible £232 to support local hospice care.

Rachel Quince, Deputy Chief Executive and Head of Fundraising & Marketing at Willow Burn Hospice, said:

"It was an absolute pleasure to meet George, and we are so honoured he chose to spend this special birthday fundraising for his local hospice. A huge thank you to George on behalf of everyone at Willow Burn Hospice."



George's kindness and community spirit are an inspiration, proving that even on your birthday, the greatest gift can be the one you give to others.

Rachel Quince

Lanchester Food Week: A Feast for the Village

From **25th October to 2nd November**, Lanchester will be serving up its very own **Food Week** – a celebration of the wonderful cafés, restaurants, takeaways, and pubs we're lucky to have right here in the village.

The idea has been cooked up by local resident **Barrie McDermid**, who also runs the *About Small Business Podcast*. Through his interviews with village businesses – including Grandpa's Fish Bar and the Ice Cream Shop – Barrie saw just how much talent and passion we have on our doorstep.

"Lanchester is so fortunate to have such a wide range of places to eat," says Barrie. "From pub grub and takeaways to fine dining, we really do have something for everyone. Food Week is about shining a light on these businesses and encouraging people to enjoy what's here."

Many of the village's food outlets have already expressed their support, with special offers and tasty treats planned throughout the week. Barrie is also joined by **Emma Weatherburn**, the marketing mind behind Grandpa's Fish Bar, to help spread the word.

The event has already created a buzz on Facebook, where residents are helping choose the official logo.

"There's such a strong sense of community in Lanchester," Barrie adds. "We'd love people to get involved, support local businesses, and share their ideas. If it goes well, there's every chance this could become an annual highlight."

For updates, offers, and to join the conversation, visit the Facebook page: facebook.com/lanchesterfoodweek or contact Barrie directly on 07738 223413



Barrie in Front Street

Lanchester Endowed Parochial School

With the summer break, there have not been any activities that have taken place in school during August. We know that our children will be more than ready to return to school next week though and are very grateful to the cleaning team who have worked so hard to prepare the school for our return.
I would also like to thank those members of the community who alerted me to a fallen tree during the storm at the beginning of August. It's amazing what you can sort from a remote Croatian island! Technology used at its best and thankfully, everything was sorted by the end of the day, including the repairs to the fence it had fallen onto! Huge thanks to everyone who played a part in helping us with that.
The summer break is a time to stop, recharge batteries and reflect on what has worked well during the year as well as what we could improve on in the coming year. Our end of year questionnaires for pupils and parents always help with this and I have spent some time reading these over the break. Some of the real positives are:

- 99% of parents and carers would recommend our school to others.
- 99% of parents and carers think teaching is good at the school.
- 98% of parents and carers think the school is well led and managed.
- 98% of parents and carers think there are a good range of opportunities at our school.
- 96% of parents and carers say their child enjoys coming to school.

We start a new era in September when we welcome 2-year olds into our fold as well as a large number of children transferring into different year groups across school and a full cohort of children into Reception. We have new staff starting, some changes in staff roles and an abundance of energy and enthusiasm across all ages!
We know our Year 6 leavers will be in very good hands as they join their local secondary schools and they will be in our thoughts in the coming weeks as they begin the next exciting stage of their lives.

Here's to a new year from all the staff at Lanchester EP School.

Jane Davis
Head Teacher



EP Staff at the end of last term

All Saints' Catholic Primary School



Frances Stephenson
Head Teacher

Friends of Longovicium

The Friends of Longovicium is a community-based local history group, which aims to raise awareness and knowledge of the Roman fort of Longovicium (Lanchester). Since the formation in 2004 the Friends of Longovicium have been informing the local community and wider world about the "Roman gem at the top of the hill" and encouraging interest in the site.
The fort is an important piece of our history; it lies on the route of the Roman road Dere Street, one of the most important Roman roads in Britain. The fort is an important Scheduled Ancient Monument that lies largely un-excavated; the site is on private farmland with no public access. The only information and signage regarding the Fort was a single display panel on the edge of the site in the adjacent public lay-by, where the only views of the remains of the fort walls can be seen.
The fort currently lacks any information for visitors after the only display panel was destroyed in an unfortunate accident (photo below). This site, rich in heritage, deserves to be celebrated and understood, yet it now sits silent. The Friends of Longovicium, our dedicated community group, has worked tirelessly to share the stories of this fort, and are still raising funds to replace the panel that was lost.
We currently have an active GoFund me campaign https://gofund.me/c9151ec7 to add to our funds already collected, for the production of a new sign, anyone contributing even a small amount to our campaign will help play a vital role in restoring this important educational resource, allowing us to inform and inspire future generations about the significance of Longovicium. Every donation counts, and together, we can ensure that our past is not forgotten.



You can find out more information about the fort by following the Friends of Longovicium on Facebook or visit our website https://longoviciumcouk.wordpress.com
On Thursday 25 September we are holding a FREE open evening in the Community Centre Main Hall. 6-9pm. See our Facebook page (Friends of Longovicium) for full details.
Darin Smith

St Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Celebrating Exam Success
This summer has seen another fantastic set of results for our students, and we are delighted to celebrate their achievements. Our A Level students have worked incredibly hard, and their dedication has paid off with the highest levels of success in four years across key subjects including History, Maths and Science. These results are a testament not only to the talent and commitment of our young people but also to the guidance and support provided by their teachers and families.
While we are still awaiting the full breakdown of GCSE results, early indications show that our students have continued to meet challenges with determination and resilience. We are so proud of the way they have embraced their studies and demonstrated real strength of character.
To all our students collecting results this summer: congratulations! Your efforts and achievements are truly inspiring, and we wish you every success as you move on to your next steps whether that be into further education or work-based training. You are an incredible example of what can be achieved through hard work and perseverance.



Open Evenings – Save the Dates!
We warmly invite families to join us for two exciting opportunities to learn more about life at our school.

- Year 5 & 6 Open Evening – Wednesday 25th September

This is the perfect chance for younger pupils and their families to explore our facilities, meet staff, and experience the welcoming atmosphere that makes our school community so special.

- Sixth Form Open Evening – Wednesday 8th October

An opportunity to discover the breadth of courses on offer, hear from subject specialists, and learn how we prepare students for university, apprenticeships, and beyond.
We look forward to seeing you there!

Catherine Hammill
Head Teacher





Lanchester Bowls Club
Shoots of Improvement on the Green

At the end of my previous article, I quoted C. S. Lewis saying once things start to improve then they might continue to get better. Since then, whilst the improvements haven't been hugely spectacular, the seeds of change have certainly been sown. Sadly, our Wednesday teams have not seen this upturn, with the A team getting relegated from Division One and the B team unable to gain promotion. It does mean, however, that next season we can look forward to two more local derbies.
The improvements started with our two friendlies where we managed to beat both Washington Glebe and then Birtley Town. Again, the friendly welcome given to us by both clubs and the buffets provided were first-class. The two games also gave us an opportunity to include our recent recruits who thoroughly enjoyed the matches. This despite the fact that one of them played on my team and the way I bowled helped the opposition to defeat us!
Saturday afternoons gave us an opportunity to continue the upturn. After taking only two points against Pelton Fell, we went on to take four points away from home at Leadgate and then all eight against Consett Park on our own pitch.
The end of the league season brings about cup games. Having beaten View Lane in our first match of the Tom Burleigh trophy, we were sadly unable to repeat the feat in the semi-final, losing to South Moor on Dipton's green.
In the Derwentside Challenge Trophy though the selected teams did themselves and Lanchester proud. In their first match they comprehensively beat Leadgate meaning that in their second game against View Lane they just needed three of the ten points up for grabs to complete a good win. It was a tightly fought match and going into the last ends it looked like Lanchester was going to be disappointed again. We had lost comprehensively on two rinks and the aggregate was against us. It didn't look good on the two remaining rinks either as they went into the last ends. Step up the two teams skipped by Joe Newton and Richard Hall as they overcame the pressure and managed to get the required wins.
After what has been a disappointing season, finishing with a trophy is a good feeling.
It's not just us that bowls on our green. The South West Bowls League have recently used it to host finals in both the open doubles and open triples; both finals were contested by teams from Sherburn Village. A group of friends who have kept together since meeting at university also asked to borrow our green and equipment. They and their children, ably coached by David Friesner and Richard Hall, had a fantastic time.
As I write we have three more games to play (sadly Wolsingham have had to cancel our final friendly match) and then the finals of our own internal competitions to play before the Council closes the rink in the middle of September.

Bob Cuthbertson
Photos on back page

Tennis News

As we move into the last month of the grass court season, all the members of LLTC are taking every opportunity to play in this beautiful dry weather, the best we've had for some years! League matches continue, with both mixed doubles and ladies teams playing away this month at Gosforth and Shotley Bridge, strong opposition at both venues, but we remain positive in our defeat!

Our own annual club tournament has continued with semi finals taking place throughout this month, culminating in Tournament Finals (part 1) on Saturday 30th August. The first match enjoyed by an enthusiastic audience was the finals of the Mixed Doubles; Laura Turnbull Lloyd and Tom Sharp versus Michelle Ridley and Adam Plumpton, some excellent competitive tennis was played, Laura & Tom winning the match in two sets and taking the winners' trophy!

The Ladies Singles final was also played on the same day, and after catching their breath…Michelle Ridley and Laura Turnbull Lloyd faced each other again with Michelle winning in two sets and taking home the trophy, and a well-deserved runners up trophy for Laura!
The Ladies Doubles was played ahead of finals day due to player availability, Julie Walker and Barbara Ridley played against Michelle Ridley and Charlotte Petrie, after a very competitive game Julie and Barbara won in two sets.

Finals day was coincidentally a big birthday for one of our members, so we also took the opportunity to celebrate our friend, coach, groundsman, playing partner, and all-round good guy…Dennis "tennis" Laycock's 75th birthday! Everyone enjoyed the celebration with great food, great tennis, and great company.

Part 2 of our finals tournament will take place on Sunday 7th September (staggered due to player availability) when we shall hold the Men's Doubles; Dennis Laycock and Dougal Reed versus Adam Plumpton and James Gray, and Men's Singles; Dougal Reed versus Tom Sharp, this promises to be an exciting finale to our 2025 tournament, full report in next month's edition.

If you'd like to find out more about LLTC, please check out our website: www.lanchesterlawntennisclub.com or follow us on Facebook.

Barbara Ridley











Top row, left to right
1. Barbara presents Michelle with her Ladies Singles Cup
2. Barbara (Ladies Captain) presents trophies to Laura and Tom winners of the mixed doubles.
3. Charlotte, Michelle, Julie and Barbara Ladies Doubles
4. Happy Birthday Dennis with his wife Jane

Left Michelle, Adam, Tom and Laura
Right Mixed doubles in action



Bowls photographs (from the previous page)

Richard Hall and David Friesner coach a friendship group (below)



Shildon - Winners of the South West Durham Open Triples (right)

Andy Gibson (below left) one of the new bowlers.

Karen Gibson (below right) another of the recent recruits.







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